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NAVY MEDICINE IN FOCUS

I AM NAVY MEDICINE

BY VJOHNSON – DECEMBER 15, 2014

POSTED IN: I AM NAVY MEDICINE

A few words from a Navy corpsman

Navy Medicine has taken me to eight different countries, three different combat zones, and two hospitals around the world. It has molded me into the man I am today.



I am the older of two children to my parents and grew up a "Navy brat." In my sophomore year of high school, I made the decision to enlist into the Navy. It was definitely the best decision I have ever made, because I have always had the desire to help and take care of others.

In 2002 I left for boot camp at Recruit Training Center in Great lakes, Illinois. Upon graduation I attended Hospital Corpsman "A" School and graduated March 2003 with orders to Naval Hospital Lemoore. Prior to checking in to Lemoore I attended Field Medical Service School in Camp Pendleton, California.

My most exciting assignment was being a medical augmentee to 1st Battalion 7th Marines and being deployed to Iraq in support of OIF 2, and the best part of my career in Navy Medicine is deploying to fight with my brothers in arms. On that deployment, in Jan. 2005, while on patrol on our main supply route, I got shrapnel to my back and a facial laceration to my left eye. My vehicle sustained a devastating improvised explosive device attack, crippling our vehicle and wounding three of us in the truck. My vehicle immediately caught fire after the explosion and all were thankfully minor wounds.

That experience, along with countless others in Navy Medicine, taught me a great deal about myself and allowed me to form friendships and bonds with others that will last a lifetime.

I have sacrificed countless man hours, limitless knowledge, and expertise in my field to help support the mission.



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I consistently devote 110 percent towards giving patients and beneficiaries the care that they deserve. I am also dedicated to furthering my knowledge in medicine and fine tuning my skills.

From working alongside medical doctors in a field hospital in Iraq to caring for patients with nurses upon an amphibious ship, all of us held a specific role in maintaining the best quality of care that we could and will continue to provide for our patients. The positive experiences that our patients receive allow us to provide the support to not only our service members but to our families and veterans who serve and support all of us in turn.

My name is Dustin Zimmer. I am the recipient of a Purple Heart, and I AM NAVY MEDICINE.



About vjohnson

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